

OFFBEAT WASHINGTON

By the Herald Tribune
Washington Staff

When John R. McCone was picked as the new Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, a lot of eyebrows went up. What did he know about intelligence? Here is why he was chosen: Intelligence work nowadays requires an immense amount of atomic, rocket and other technical know-how. Mr. McCone has it, as a result of his years on the Atomic Energy Commission. "He can learn the cloak-and-dagger stuff," said one knowledgeable official, "and he is—fast." McCone is on a get-acquainted tour of Western capitals, with retiring director Allen W. Dulles, as his guide. After they return late this month, President Kennedy is expected to name McCone formally, with an interim appointment until Congress meets again.



John McCone — a fast learner.